Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A polyvalent multimeric complex comprising a plurality of chimeric pRNA monomers, each said chimeric pRNA monomer independently comprising a heterologous component that comprises a biologically active RNA.

2. (Previously Presented) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein the biologically active RNA is selected from the group consisting of a ribozyme, a siRNA, an RNA aptamer, an antisense RNA and a peptide nucleic acid (PNA).

3. (Previously Presented) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein the heterologous component of at least one chimeric pRNA monomer comprises an end-labeling agent.

4. (Previously Presented) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 3 wherein the end-labeling agent is selected from the group consisting of biotin, pCp, DIG, SH group and phosphate.

5. (Previously Presented) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein at least one of the chimeric pRNA monomers is a circularly permuted pRNA.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein at least one of the chimeric pRNA monomers incorporates at least one nucleotide analog or modified nucleotide.

8. (Previously Presented) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 7, wherein the nucleotide analog or modified nucleotide is selected from the group consisting of a 2'-F-2' deoxy nucleotide derivative, a phosphorothoiate, a 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide, a peptide nucleic acid (PNA).

9.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A method for delivering a therapeutic agent to a cell comprising:

contacting the cell with the polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1, wherein the heterologous component of a first chimeric pRNA monomer comprises a ~~therapeutic agent~~first biologically active RNA and the heterologous component of a second chimeric pRNA monomer comprises a second biologically active ~~moiety~~ RNA that is an RNA aptamer which specifically binds a cell membrane component ~~of the cell membrane~~, such that the polyvalent multimeric complex is taken up by the ~~host~~ cell.

18. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the cell membrane component ~~of the cell membrane~~ to which the polyvalent multimeric complex binds is a receptor, and wherein the polyvalent multimeric complex is taken up by the cell via receptor-mediated endocytosis.

19.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A chimeric pRNA monomer comprising 5' and 3' ends, wherein at least one of said 5' and 3' ends comprises a heterologous component that comprises a biologically active RNA, and wherein the chimeric pRNA monomer is capable of

assembling into a polyvalent multimeric complex comprising a plurality of chimeric pRNA monomers.

29. (Previously Presented) The pRNA monomer of claim 28 wherein the heterologous component comprises antisense RNA.

30. (Previously Presented) The pRNA monomer of claim 28 wherein the heterologous component comprises an aptamer.

31. (Previously Presented) The pRNA monomer of claim 28 wherein the heterologous component comprises a labeling agent.

32. (Previously Presented) The pRNA monomer of claim 31 wherein the labeling agent is selected from the group consisting of biotin, pCp, DIG, SH group and phosphate.

33. (Previously Presented) The pRNA monomer of claim 32 comprising at least one nucleotide analog or modified nucleotide.

34. (Previously Presented) The pRNA monomer of claim 33, wherein the nucleotide analog or modified nucleotide is selected from the group consisting of a 2'-F-2' deoxy nucleotide derivative, a phosphorothioate, a 2'-O-methyl ribonucelotide, a peptide nucleic acid (PNA).

35. (Previously Presented) The chimeric pRNA monomer of claim 28 comprising at least one nucleotide analog or modified nucleotide.

36. (Previously Presented) The chimeric pRNA monomer of claim 35 which is a circularly permuted pRNA.

37. (Previously Presented) The chimeric pRNA monomer of claim 35 wherein the nucleotide analog or modified nucleotide is selected from the group consisting of a 2'-F-2' deoxy nucleotide derivative, a phosphorothioate, a 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide, a peptide nucleic acid (PNA).

38.-48. (Canceled)